

Portfolio of

AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

Harvesting crops,
young people playing in a potato field,
a magnificent mountain range,
gathering sheep in a winter storm...

These images captured by the photographer and artist on film and canvas
show a few aspects of the industry, spirit, dedication and beauty
of American agriculture.

Each image carries its own story.

There is an instant during a corn harvest when the rumble of the engine
breaks the morning silence as a farmer maneuvers the combine, watching
mechanical fingers skim along just inches above the ground.

When the camera shutter turns heavy snowflakes into blurred white streaks
one can sense the cold and feel the farmer's commitment to see his farm
animals through another bitter winter.

A vast lush rural landscape appears to be faultless when seen from afar
in an airplane. But in order to turn the beautiful picture into an
agricultural success, the farmer on that land, like most of America's
farmers, must be concerned about plant diseases, attacks by insects,
conserving his soil, and the real return on his investment at market time.

Within these images one sees the result of years of planning, seasons
of frustration and dedication to research that go toward making better
products—the food and fiber—by the people that help transform it all
into the wonder of American agriculture.

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Credits

Landscape West Concord, Minnesota	Mountain of Corn Every, Iowa	Southwest Impression Colorado Plateau	Apple Harvest Rappahannock County, Virginia	Super Cabbage Palmer, Alaska	Harvest Break Presque Isle, Maine	Sorghum Processing Camellia, Georgia	Dawn Mabonnet, Illinois	Roundup Augusta, Montana	Sheep Worrell, Vermont	Cotton Harvesting Wenona, Georgia	Roundup Agate, Montana	Roundup Unimak Island, Alaska	Mountain Snow Sawtooth National Forest, Idaho	Homegrown Southern Maryland	Miracle Crop Winnona, Georgia					
<p>At the Land-O-Lakes Co-op in Clay County, Oscar Mohr stands atop 150,000 bushels of yellow corn. The crop reached heights more than 20 feet and covered an area nearly as large as a football field.</p> <p>Artist: David Granahan 1975</p>	<p>At the Land-O-Lakes Co-op in Clay County, Oscar Mohr stands atop 150,000 bushels of yellow corn. The crop reached heights more than 20 feet and covered an area nearly as large as a football field.</p> <p>Artist: David Granahan 1975</p>	<p>The soybean and dairy country in southeast Minnesota acquires a bluish beauty in early winter. This is the last time the land is ready for the long winter.</p> <p>Artist: Michael David Brown 1980</p>	<p>These apples, grown on the Lee farm, are in large wooden crates ready for delivery to market on 1½-wheel flatbed trucks. The Lee farm has been in the family since 1875 and some will have made into applesauce and cider at nearby Winchester, Virginia.</p> <p>USDA photo by Byron Schumaker 1975</p>	<p>To celebrate the Nation's birthday, Tom Borman had the flag painted on a side of his corn field. Such expressions were typical of the patriotic Americans during the bicentennial year.</p> <p>USDA photo by Thomas DeFeo 1975</p>	<p>Playing before their work day begins, young people in these Maine potato fields roll out the barrels containing the soft, warm water needed to cool the hot sun. They then fill the barrels by hand after a mechanical digger turns up the spuds.</p> <p>Releasing young people from school to help on the farm is not uncommon today and was once a practice in all of rural America.</p> <p>USDA photo by George Robinson 1975</p>	<p>On the Fletcher Ford farm near Camerville, Johnny Wilson soaks sorghum for processing into syrup. Sorghum cane is stripped and crushed and then ground into juice. The juice is boiled for several hours in 4- by 20-foot tanks to remove the pulp. The juice is then boiled in a bitter tasting skim sometimes sought by bootleggers to distill corn whisky.</p> <p>USDA photo by Ray Lustig 1975</p>	<p>Large mechanical pickers, like this one operating in a little Georgia cotton field, can pick as much cotton in a day as a dozen pickers could pick by hand in 3 days. But it takes 100 acres of one-acre-to-the-acre cotton to make a mechanized picker pay off. Jim Kunkle, a picker from September through October.</p> <p>USDA photo by Ray Lustig 1975</p>	<p>Part-time farmer Robin Noland raises a small flock of long-wool sheep on his 100-acre farm. He sheared the sheep for lambing and shearing. Sheep do not require a lot of labor and the work can usually be planned when other chores are not around. In good rangelands and during special times like a snowstorm, he gives them a little grain.</p> <p>USDA photo by George Robinson 1977</p>	<p>On the plains beneath Montana's rugged Rocky Mountains, rancher Bill Baier has his cattle at a watering trough time.</p> <p>USDA photo by Lowell Georgia 1975</p>	<p>In a landscape of rolling hills, a lone sheepherder walks across a field.</p> <p>USDA photo by Ray Lustig 1975</p>	<p>Large mechanical pickers, like this one operating in a little Georgia cotton field, can pick as much cotton in a day as a dozen pickers could pick by hand in 3 days. But it takes 100 acres of one-acre-to-the-acre cotton to make a mechanized picker pay off. Jim Kunkle, a picker from September through October.</p> <p>USDA photo by Ray Lustig 1975</p>	<p>Large mechanical pickers, like this one operating in a little Georgia cotton field, can pick as much cotton in a day as a dozen pickers could pick by hand in 3 days. 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